

The Church of God Evangel

"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come they were all with one accord in one place." Acts 2:1. "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance." Acts 2:4.

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GENERAL OVERSEER'S ADDRESS Before the Sixteenth Annual Assembly November 4, 1921.

Important Measures Introduced.

(Continued from last week)

Prepare for the Storm

Some one described a storm at sea as witnessed in a dream or by a vision. There was the great blue sea with its great expanse stretching as far as eye could see. Upon its crest and lying placidly upon its bosom were a number of large ships, beautifully decorated and having all their sails set. The thing that so attracted the seer was that every ship had a great banner gently waving in the breeze, and upon the banner were words in beautifully painted letters that could be read distinctly at a distance. These words were the names of the common churches of our day. I do not repeat this with the least degree of disrespect to any of these churches, for they have all had their day in doing great things in good ways.

Among the number was one that seemed to attract the seer more than the others because of its freshness and beautiful luster and hue. The sail seemed to be of extra whiteness. Its maneuverings were strange as it slowly approached. The other ships which were arranged in a group near one another. While watching the scene, suddenly a cloud covered the sun and cast its shadows over the bosom of the great ocean as if might were approaching. In a few moments the sky was black with clouds and the lightning flashed and the thunder pealed. The great surface of the ocean was suddenly turned into rolling, whirling, dashings, cataclysm, and whirlpools. Darkness hovered over the scene so dense that all the ships were lost to view. The storm was the most severe of the season. How could anything breast the waves and live on such a high sea? Impossible, it seemed!

The seer watched in vain for one glimpse of the stately vessels that he knew were there an hour before. The storm grew worse as it rolled the waves like mountains and then suddenly withdrew only to let them dash over each other into a mass of seething foam. The waves rolled, the winds howled, the lightnings flashed, the thunders pealed like a million cannons let loose at once. Surely all those grand and proud vessels could not stand up in such a storm. The seer gave them up for gone. He could have no hope for any of them.

But at last the storm was over. The waves rocked to and fro a little while and the clouds cleared away, and the sun shone out, and there was a great calm. Looking out upon that great expanse again, eager to catch a glimpse of even wreckage of some of the ships, the seer was able to see but one, and that was the one, upon the banner of which was printed, the Church of God. There she was in full rigging, fresh as ever, and no worse for the storm, but rather shined brighter and floated with greater rapidity than when he first saw her. And all the others were gone—completely demolished and sunk in the sea.

But a vision or dream is not enough. We know the Church of God is right. Her banner is steadily floating in the breeze no matter how she is opposed. If such storm is brewing that will demolish all the other great organizations and institutions it may be time for us to look deeper into the Scriptures in search of anything that we can do to reinforce and strengthen its beams and bars, as well as protect it from the onslaughts of oppositions from any source from which they may come, so it will pull through the fiercest storms, and never flounder or founder.

Who knows but by looking a little deeper into the Word of God we may find something that we can do to add strength, and power as well as prestige? This is our method of procedure. This is the object of holding our Assemblies annually. And every year finds new mines opened up producing their glittering gold and glorious truths. We have been loudly criticized because we have made so many changes during the past sixteen years. But this is one of the principles of the great Church of God. We did not know it all when we started, so we obligated ourselves to search for truth and walk in the light as it is revealed through the Holy Ghost and the Holy Scriptures. I would have our friends and foes to know that we are not staked out by a tether. A tether is a rope for confining an animal within certain limits. But God has not said to us as He said to the great ocean waves, Thus far and no further. He has rather said to us Let us go on unto perfection—there are greater things ahead and thou shalt have all the land that thy foot shall tread upon, launch out into the deep and let down your nets.

How is it to be staked out and have all the grass eaten off short and just a few feet away there is an abundance of the very best clover pasture! Too many have eaten up their pasture now and can't go over

the bounds that are set. That is the great hindrance to christendom today. The people are bound up by creeds and dogmas and cannot go over. But not so with the great Church of God. To set bounds would be to rob it of its name. In the Church of God is set, "apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ: that we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ."

Where is the limit to God? Where is the limit to His Son? Where, then, can be the limit to His Church? This does not imply that there is no danger of heresy or fanaticism, but the land ahead is in searching for depths and heights, lengths and breadths of truth and when found put it in practice for the advancement of the great work of God. People can get into error, but which is the most dangerous error, to enthusiastically and zealously run into it, or sit still and not try to find the hidden wealth that is lying dormant and unused in the folds of His great treasure house?

I have seen people who were so fearful of running into error that they sat still and would not do the things that were right.

Courts of Justice

Another step forward has been recommended by some. It is believed that it would be in perfect harmony with Scriptural teaching and strengthening to the Church in many ways to add two persons to the court of appeals, as we might express it, to hear cases that may properly come before them. At the present time the Assembly has provided that any member who has been tried before the local church, and he feels that he has not been given justice, can appeal his case to the overseer of the state for re-hearing. It is not advised to change this order, but as a matter of strength just to add one of the twelve elders and a bishop in the state who may be appointed to act with the overseer of state in hearing such cases.

It is believed also that before this Council should be brought all applicants for the ministry for special examination besides the common practice of each applicant answering the ninety-nine questions on the examination certificate. The final acceptance to be made by the General and State overseers as has been our practice for years. This is meant to be set as a safeguard for the ministry in these last days when christendom is swarming with fakes and would-be leaders and spies. This way of doing the business will not hurt any of the good and wise, and at the same time will serve as a safeguard to the ministry. Appeals from the decision of this court may be taken to a still higher court just as provided by the Assembly in the past, although the higher court may consist of three or five judges to assist the General Overseer.

This subject will be discussed at length by one or more of the speakers at a later session. The Scriptural method is what we want and here is a great body of people that are always ready to bow to thus saith the Lord. This is what makes the Church of God a theocratic form of government. The Bible settles everything, and we consider the Bible God's word to us.

There has been some slight dissatisfaction in the past by some who have felt they were not given justice in the settlement of cases. This system recommended is meant to make a way for perfect satisfaction in everything. The Church of God is the greatest institution in the world and the Bible is the greatest and best law book of all books, and it behooves us as the "peculiar people" of earth to put in practice the highest and best methods described on its sacred pages. The principles of government laid down in that Book are of the very highest type, and when we put them into practical use we are certainly following God's order—the highest order in the universe, for our great Head has ascended to heights far above principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come. "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him and for him." I think it is great to have Him, the greatest personage of the universe

and vested with authority above all, to be our Head, Lawgiver and King. The Church of God is honored above all institutions of earth. And we are not able to comprehend the honor bestowed upon us as members. It is not so much wonder then that we are exhorted by the noble Apostle to walk worthy of the vocation wherein we are called. I tell you, it is surely time for us to take a review of our exalted position. We may not know the depths and heights of the sacred institution known as the Church of God, as well as we may have thought. We are here to learn more of it this year. The meager light we have had may seem like dim glimmers before we get through the Sixteenth General Assembly.

The Seventy

It was in the twelfth General Assembly that convened at Harriman, Tennessee, November 1-7, 1916, that it was decided to select twelve men to constitute a cabinet to assist the General Overseer in whatever business he might need their counsel and help. Not only was it decided to select twelve, but also to add others to the number from time to time as needed until the number seventy was reached. This was believed to be in harmony with the Scriptures, both in the Old and New Testaments. As far as could be seen then, this would correspond with the practices of the early Church. It was understood that it was before such a body of elders that Paul stood when he came home again from his extended missionary journeys. The next day after their arrival in Jerusalem Paul and Luke "went in unto James; and all the elders were present." It was believed that there were seventy of these elders.

Whether this reasoning was dependable or not many of us who are here to-day remember how we were all subdued in our spirits as we felt the presence of the Lord so forcibly when the final conclusion was reached and it was said, It seems good to the Holy Ghost and us. We feel that we were on the right road whether we had reached the end of it or not. And we surely were, for the Church has been more prosperous and made greater advancement since that time. The General Overseer has felt great relief and much added strength in special counsel with these brethren, besides it seemed to give him a standard of strength and confidence in the performance of his duties that had never before enveloped him so forcibly.

The twelve were selected in the manner decided upon by the Assembly and installed in their respective positions. They have been serving faithfully, with one exception, for about four years, but there has been no time yet when it was considered advisable to select the other fifty-eight or any part of them. I believe God has had His hand on the whole affair, and is still watching every move and guiding the ship in its voyage across the sea of the last days. In the Council we have tried to look deeper into the Scriptures, and held ourselves in readiness to have the additional elders selected, but there always seemed to be something about it that left us feeling rather disinterested and doubtful. We could not get a good understanding of what their duties should be after they were chosen. And it was not until quite recently that any degree of interest took possession of us.

I think it was in August of this year when meditating upon plan to give the Church new life, and make it seem more secure for the last day's voyage, that, like a flash, these words, "Other Seventy" rolled through my mind. They came with such force that I was startled at first. I went on with my business, however, and did not take time to stop and open the Scriptures or even gather anything from memory. But the words never left me. I knew that the "Lord appointed other seventy also," and raised them to a rank almost equal with that of the twelve, and separate and apart from the common everyday disciples. I remembered about the seventy that were chosen by Moses in the Church in the Wilderness, and how Joshua, who seemed to be one of Moses' special aids, became jealous for Moses, his immediate superior, when Eldad and Medad began to prophesy in the camp.

Finally, on looking deeper into the Scriptures, I came to the conclusion that instead of merely increasing the number of elders to seventy that it was nearer Scriptural to appoint other seventy also. The twelve to be the immediate counselors to the General Overseer, and the twelve and seventy jointly, with the General overseer, to compose the official part of the General Assembly. I conclude this is in harmony with the General Assembly that held forth, and was the highest tribunal in the days of the early Church while the Apostles still remained. In support of this view we have only to turn to the decision of the brethren at Antioch. When they were confronted with some questions that they were unable to settle they decided to go up to Jerusalem and lay the question before the apostles and elders for definite settlement. And in due time, after the subject was carefully discussed, James, the General Overseer, an-

nounced the decision. And this for ever settled the question.

In connection with this subject please note that while the whole Church was pleased with the decision, and apparently the discussion was not limited to the apostles and elders, yet it is said that it was the apostles and elders that came together to consider the matter, and it was the apostles and elders and brethren that sent the greetings and decrees to the churches in "Antioch and Syria and Cilicia." The above analogy and reasoning seems to make it clear that the official Assembly is composed of both the twelve and seventy, presided over by the General Overseer, making a total of eighty-three vested with official authority, but not excluding the brethren and the whole Church.

But this subject will be presented more extensively and elaborately by one of the speakers in a future session.

The subject of the twelve and seventy was presented to the twelve in Council a few weeks ago and after looking at it from every angle it was unanimously agreed that it was worthy of presentation to the Assembly for their consideration. And if this view is accepted it does not conflict with the action of the twelfth General Assembly, but only adds to it in a way to prove that we were then being guided by the unseen hand of God into the pathway that leads to the final consummation.

The more I give my attention to this subject, the more I feel its importance. I, therefore, feel constrained to urge that this Assembly give it careful, prayerful, and deliberate consideration. I do not want this to pass through simply because the General Overseer recommends it, and the twelve endorse it, yet their recommendation and endorsement should have some weight. But I earnestly appeal to your knowledge of the Bible and the wisdom and common sense God has given you for a just and sound consideration and decision. Earnest prayer for God's Holy Spirit to guide in the matter should not be neglected. He must have the pre-eminence in all of our deliberations and decisions. We honor Him as our chief executive who makes our decisions for us and leads us to them in His own good time and way.

If it should finally be decided that this is the Scriptural standard for the Church of God and its General Assembly, then it will become your duty to determine the Scriptural manner of appointment of the other seventy. When the seven were chosen to take charge of the distribution of food when there were many thousands to be fed for a short period of time from a common fund, the twelve instructed the multitude of the disciples to look out seven men well qualified for the work, "whom we (the twelve) may appoint over this business." While the multitudes were to look out the men yet the appointment was reserved for the twelve. In the case of the other seventy it is stated clearly that Jesus appointed them. And when God told Moses to select seventy men to assist him in bearing the burden of the government of the Church in the wilderness He depended upon Moses to make the selection, only He instructed him in regard to their qualifications.

If it should be decided that the official appointment be made by the General Overseer, then I would recommend that the twelve or others present the names of men whom in their judgment are qualified for the position and from these the final appointment be made. But this will be altogether for this great body of lovers of God and lovers of Scriptural methods to determine, after they give the subject due consideration.

Before leaving this important subject there is another phase to which I wish to call attention. We are a body of people that are bent on finding the very best methods of doing things and we believe that Scriptural methods are always the best, but in many things we are left at sea by the Bible, because it does not give everything in minute detail. But in such places we do no violence to adopt methods best suited to the time, place and circumstances. In the selection of the other seventy and the length of their term of office we may not find a definite rule laid down in our law-book to follow, and if not, it behooves us to act wisely and institute a rule that will be the means of increasing prestige and power and not be in the least sense contrary to the principles of the Bible as a whole. The Church of God is a theocratic form of government, and this principle must be adhered to in all our deliberations and decisions.

In my judgment the terms of office for the other seventy could be two years, five years, seven years, ten years, or for life and not violate any laws or rules laid down in the Scriptures. And in any case provisions should be made for expulsion if one should violate his obligation, become disloyal, or enter into sinful practices outright. If the term of office should be two years then I would suggest that the first thirty-five be selected for the two years and the second thirty-five for only one year at the start so that the term of only half of them would expire at the same time. Likewise if the term should be five years then I

would suggest that the first fourteen be selected for the full term of five years, the second fourteen for only four years, the third fourteen for only three years and so on down so that the last fourteen selected would serve only one year. This plan would make it necessary to appoint fourteen every year, and after the first appointments are made the next appointments would all be for a term of five years. After this system runs for five years there will always be fourteen vacancies every year and fourteen appointments to make. This system provides for the assurance of always having fifty-six men of experience and yet leaves an opportunity for the insertion of fourteen new men every year if desired, or the old ones may be reappointed. The same principle will serve for seven years, or ten years, only for seven years there would be only ten to appoint each year, and if ten years in a term there would be only seven to appoint each year. Provisions should also be made for filling vacancies in case of death.

But these are merely suggestions in order to get the subject before the Assembly. I know that God will help us in reaching conclusions. We are steadily moving forward, scaling new heights and exploring deeper depths. We are constantly penetrating deeper into the veins of rich deposits of the precious Word of God. We want to know everything about it that should be known in our dispensation. And no sooner do we learn it than we want to put it in practice. The very day I was convinced of feet washing I called a meeting in the evening and we washed feet. And the very day I was convinced I should be baptized in water I pulled off down to the river and was buried beneath the waves, although the water was chilled by a cold northwestern gale in the state of Maine not far from the Canada line. The Church of God stands for a speedy practice of everything in that sacred Book as fast as it is learned.

Anchored

Since we are living in the last days when every weapon available to the enemy will be aimed at the Church of God, it is necessary for us to see that every Scriptural protection is thrown around it for protection. We have been carefully and prayerfully wending our way along through the shades of the early dawn, and it is marvelous to some of us as the day breaks to find we have not missed the mark so far after all. But every year we take special pains to go over every department and see if there is any way to strengthen any part of the great ship—the Church of God.

A basket may be a basket, but stays can be added to make the basket stronger. A house may be a house but braces and stays may be added to make it more secure against storms. In some places there are no severe storms and a house does not need so much bracing. But where these terrible cyclones sweep the country one does not feel secure in a little plank house with no braces in it. The time has been when the plank house experience was alright, but now it is necessary to have the very best timbers in place and be anchored in a manner that all the winds from the depths of hell turned loose on the building will never cause it to shake or rock about. The anchorage must be of the very best and strongest material, and the anchors themselves must be both sure and steadfast.

This subject will be given more extensive consideration by one of the speakers who will probably disclose some of the fastenings needed to make the great ship so secure that hell's fiercest storms beating against it will be nothing more than the gentle breezes of mid-summer time. Instead of shattering and breaking with their furious blasts, they will only be refreshing and buoyant in their effect. And such is the Church of God against which the gates of hell shall not prevail. With its full constitution or system of fundamental laws properly displayed it will consider the fiercest onslaughts of the enemy nothing more than play things and will playfully laugh at the hottest, hardest, fiercest belching from the depths of hell with the millions of demons sending forth their fiery darts and most furious explosives. I fancy I hear her say, as a strong charge is made against her, "Ha, ha, ha, come again if you want to, it is only play for me. No weapon that is formed against me shall prosper, and these thrusts by your satanic hosts only brighten me up so I will shine more brilliantly." Then I can imagine the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy as he sang, "Thy watchman shall lift up the voice, with the voice together shall they sing; for they shall see eye to eye, when the Lord shall bring again Zion. Break forth into joy, sing together, ye waste places of Jerusalem: for the Lord has made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God."

In my judgment the terms of office for the other seventy could be two years, five years, seven years, ten years, or for life and not violate any laws or rules laid down in the Scriptures. And in any case provisions should be made for expulsion if one should violate his obligation, become disloyal, or enter into sinful practices outright. If the term of office should be two years then I would suggest that the first thirty-five be selected for the two years and the second thirty-five for only one year at the start so that the term of only half of them would expire at the same time. Likewise if the term should be five years then I

about the financial system. This subject has been before us for years which shows it is one of importance. From the very earliest history of the Church this subject has been one among those of paramount importance. It occupied an important place while the people were under the law, and before the law was well, and during the short period when Jesus was with His disciples, and it was carried on over into the first days of the outpouring of the Holy Ghost, and ran on down through Paul's day, and has never had an end yet. And I do not know of a time that there will not need to be some medium for the exchange of values.

One year ago something occurred right here on this floor that was such a surprise to me that I was almost dashed as the object sped by so swiftly. The sentiment for the change of the system was much stronger than I believed it to be, and when the time came for the decision it was snapped off like a photographer's camera. Some unseen power seemed to press the bulb and it was all over in a few moments. I do not think I was responsible for it because I did not expect it to go as it did. But when it was gone I could do nothing but stand and look at it. But with all this I would not dare say it did not take the right turn. I'd be afraid to say anything against it. And I would feel like walking very softly and carefully to even offer any amendment to what was done in those hours when the whole Assembly was under the open and God's presence was over us in such a measure that nothing more could have been done than was done.

Reflecting back to what led to the decision brings a peculiar sadness over the subject. And I feel I must touch very softly lest I be found treading on something that might displease the Lord. What I say on this subject must be carefully guarded. I am going to be very careful what I say about anything that has God's approval upon it as was demonstrated in making the change in the financial system in the Assembly a year ago. After I saw how it went I almost regretted that I did not boldly recommend it as it was finally accepted. Some may have thought I recommended it, but I did not. I only referred to it as being favored by many. Here are my words in introducing the subject:

"It is not my purpose to speak from a personal point of view at this time. I am only to speak now of a sentiment among our people, and it may be stronger than some of us realize. That sentiment is in favor of a general headquarters treasury into which all the tithes are to be placed, with seven men to regulate and make, or order, the distribution among the ministers according to their needs and the efficiency of their work, and the responsibility of the position in which they serve."

I had added only a few more words when there were some messages given in tongues and the interpretations followed which were convincing to those present that we were on the right road. When the system was adopted unanimously it was also "decided that the General Overseer and the elders work out the plan," or in other words, the Assembly selected the General Overseer and elders to take hold of the business and organize the system and put it into practice. And this seemed to please the Holy Ghost and the whole Assembly.

In council afterwards the elders did not like taking the responsibility of selecting seven men to do the business since the Assembly authorized the General Overseer and twelve elders to take it in hand. And it could hardly be said that the seven in the early church who had charge of feeding the multitude could be taken as

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making mistakes, but if we make a
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recting it if you notify us.

We invite all the workers to send
us reports of interest from the battle-
field. If nothing else a postal card
telling where you are this week.

Help us make the Evangel a
medium of information as well as a
spiritual blessing.

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We are delighted to hear of the
good meetings in many places.

There are many heart cries for
deeper experiences so their service
for the Master will be more effective.
Deep consecration and prayer will
always help.

Now is the time for the overseers
and all ministers to make their plans
for their big revival campaigns for
the coming year. We must do our best
for the salvation of souls.

Keep up the Sunday school work.
Reports show that quite a number of
churches do not have Sunday schools.
This does not speak any too well for
the pastors and district overseers. I
urge that every state overseer will
take up this matter at once and see
that every church in his state has a
Sunday school. It's too bad to let this
work drag in some places.

Local church organization should
be pushed up again this year. Quite
a number are not yet organized into
classes, but I notice the workers in
some places are still working at it.
This is another thing for the over-
seers to push. Many are organized and
doing fine. Every pastor should get
in behind his work and keep this
work moving forward.

Please pray another prayer for the
Evangel. I hope you will get the financial
end of the publishing house on
your heart and help us pray through
to victory. Surely the Lord will help
us in answer to your prayers. You
see it still coming out each week, but
little do you know what a strain we
are in to make it go. Your prayers will
help us I'm sure. Every time you get
a subscription you help that much.
Every renewal helps that much.
Thanks to the workers that are al-
ready working and praying. Lord, give
us more!

E. J. Boehmer, our general secre-
tary, is now with me in the office. He
will render valuable assistance in
managing the financial system and
making the allotments. Hope our peo-
ple will be patient with us while we
are trying to get a more perfect sys-
tem worked up. The brethren in Coun-
cil prepared for some improvements
which will be put into operation just
as soon as possible. But all must re-
member that the tithes are insufficient
for the support of the ministers and
this means it will take an abundance
of gifts and freewill offerings.

The brethren in Council decided
that the state overseers should get
their full support from offerings so
that the tithes could go to help the
other ministers. This is not a compul-
sory order, but by every church in the
state where there are a goodly num-
ber of churches putting forth some
effort the overseers can be amply
provided for in this way and scarcely
any one will miss what is given for
this purpose. Forty churches giving
only three dollars a month will make
the overseer one hundred and twenty
dollars. And he will usually need this

much to pay his traveling and other
expenses and support his family. And
what is three dollars for a church of
twenty to raise? Count it and you
will see it is only fifteen cents a piece.
Of course this can be done. The over-
seers in states where there are not so
many churches will have to be cared
for, but they can often get help on the
field and every church should do
their best for them.

For more than a year the General
Overseer and his counsellors have
been giving the subject of Orphanage
solicitors consideration. Sister Bertie
Mae (Jullerat) Pressgrove has
been acting in this capacity for
some time in a limited way, having re-
ceived her authority verbally from the
General Overseer. But at the last
meeting it was decided to com-
mission a limited number to act in this capacity.
The financial depression has made the orphanage
work very discouraging, and this has
been the means of holding us back,
but now since there is so much dis-
tress in the land, and so many calls
for help, and so many little ones are
knocking at our door for admittance,
we have decided to make the effort
and put some special workers in the
field with a view to housing and feed-
ing just as many as we can. At the
same meeting it was decided to com-
mission Sister Bertie Mae (Jullerat)
Pressgrove, of Charleston, Miss., and
Wm. Milton Croy of Radford, Va., as
two general solicitors. These have
been commissioned and some of their
territory allotted. Many of our people
are well acquainted with Sister Press-
grove, but Brother Croy is not so well
known, however, he has had consider-
able experience in this kind of work
having solicited for other similar in-
stitutions with abundant success. He
is a fine man and strong for the
Church of God.

We are now ready to book orders
for the Minutes of the last Assembly.
The work is on the press and will be
off soon ready to mail out. The prices
will be the same as last year. 25 cts.
per single copy, \$3.75 per dozen,
\$14.00 for fifty and \$25.00 per hun-
dred. The orders will be filled as soon
as the pamphlets are ready. Churches
should take advantage of the quantity
prices and order fifty or a hundred
to start with. They will be sent post
paid.

The Coming of The Lord is at Hand.

Dear Brother Tomlinson, and All the
Evangel Family—Greetings in Jesus'
Name:

I am praising God for full and free
salvation. A salvation that there is
joy and peace in, praise God. I want to
live for Jesus every day.

Dear friends, we read the news-
papers and read of the famine that
there are in the land, how people are
starving by the thousands for want
of food and water. But, how many of
us have looked in God's Word and
read about the famine, God will send
upon the earth? "Behold, the days
come, saith the Lord God, that I will
send a famine in the land; not a fam-
ine of bread, nor a thirst for water,
but of hearing the words of the Lord."
Amos 8:11. That famine is indeed
approaching fast. You can't hear the
true gospel preached now, only here
and there, where a few honest Christians
are following the footsteps of Jesus,
the rest of them have run
greedily after the doctrine of Balaam.

Beloved, it behoves us to get
ready for Jesus is coming soon. Every-
thing is pointing to His soon ap-
pearing. The prophecies are being ful-
filled.

I often wonder why people are so
unconcerned about their souls. Some
people think less of their souls than
any other thing on earth, when it is
the most valuable of all things. But
Jesus said, "As the days of Noah were,
so shall also the coming of the Son of
man be." The day of the Lord's preparation
began a long while ago. For Nahum said, "The chariots
shall be with flaming torches in the
day of his preparation," Nahum 2:3.

He also said, "The chariots shall
rage in the streets, and justice one
against another in the broad
ways and shall run like the lightning."
So we see the Lord has been
preparing His bride to catch her away.

The day of the Lord is at hand,
even at the door, when we see the
signs appearing in a marvelous way.

We know not the day nor the hour,
but we must be ready and waiting
for Him. "For in such an hour as ye
think not the Son of man cometh."

We must labor and faint not, neith-
er be weary in well doing. We must
not be like the evil servant who said,
"My Lord delayeth his coming,"

and go back in our old sinful ways.
But always be on the watch for His com-
ing.

I want to be ready when He comes
or calls and I want to see others get
ready, for what an awful thing it will
be to be left when Jesus will come
and catch His bride away.

Come on, friends, and get in the
boat that will take you over the tides
of persecutions and temptations. Put
on the whole armour of God, and
clean up, straighten up and get ready
to go up with Jesus. Praise God, for
the promise is true.

Pray for me that I will be ready to
go when Jesus comes or calls.

Mrs. L. R. Winnegar,
Box 253. Ranger, Tex.

LIFE, INCIDENTS AND EXPERI-
ENCES OF LOUISE WERNER

Written by Herself

is the title of a booklet of sixty-one
pages.

This booklet tells of God's power

to deliver a dove-fledgling from the
power of the devil, and gives other thrilling
experiences.

Price post paid 15c.

Enjoyed Assembly Through Evangel

Dear Brother Tomlinson, and All the
Saints of God Everywhere—Greetings
in Jesus' Name:

I am praising God this morning for
victory over sin and the devil through
the blood of Jesus Christ. Praise God;
I never heard of Monday being
called "blue Monday" before. But,
praise the Lord, when the golden sun-
light of God's love is streaming into
a soul and we are lifted up on heights
of glory, and the beautiful light of
God's eternal truth blazing into every
recess of the heart finding no com-
munion there, has no time to feel
the effects of blue Monday, but is busy
and happy, telling somebody else
about the Pearl of great price. Hallelujah!
I have had my part and feast of the
Assembly. Although I was not there,
I surely am enjoying it through the
precious little paper as this is, that brings
such good soul food and news. Praise
God for such a wonderful little paper.

I am praising God for this strait
and narrow way and for the way Jesus
is manifesting Himself in these
last perilous days. I thank Him be-
cause I am saved, sanctified and baptiz-
ed with the precious Holy Ghost and a
member of the great Church of God.

Although the storms of persecutions
beat hard against it, it will not
fall for it is founded upon the solid
rock, Christ Jesus. Jesus is the head,
the chief corner stone, Brother Tomlinson
is our leader and overseer, for he
stands for the truth and right.

You remember of a great leader
named Joshua, that God raised up
and when in the thickest of the fight
Joshua, the great man of God, com-
manded the sun to stand still and it
obeyed, so we don't know what is
ahead of us all, what battles and
victories. Let us all be loyal and true
to the rules of the Assembly and hold
up our General Overseer with our most
fervent prayers and means in every
hard battle he has to fight for the
great Church of God, for it seems that
hell's artillery is turned loose against
God's children who are struggling for
the truth of God and poor lost souls.

Let us go forth to conquer for Jesus
our King in spite of all Satan
does to try to keep us back. We know
the devil is mighty but "God is Al-
mighty" so let us put our trust in Jesus
alone who is able to carry us through,
for the battles will soon be ours with
shots of victory and crowns of
glory. Eternal joy of heaven will be
ours if we hold out faithful to the end.

Your unworthy sister,

Dora Free,
Vardaman, Miss.

Wants to be More Like Jesus

Dear Brother Tomlinson, and Saints—

Greetings in Jesus' Name:

I am praising God because I was
one of the chosen number.

Today finds me saved, sanctified
and filled with the Holy Ghost and a
member of the Church of God, press-
ing to the mark of a higher calling.

About eight years ago I accepted
the Lord as my sanctifier, and from
that time I have had a great desire
to be a true follower of Jesus, and
about eight months ago some true
minister of the Church of God came
into this community, declaring the
wonderful, miraculous power of God.

Although before I came into this
community I had already been en-
lightened to some extent and was
really seeking the baptism of the
Holy Ghost, with few doubts. Nevertheless
a message being delivered by
Brother G. C. Dunn, was convincing to
me that this was the real Pentecostal
way.

I am glad that the way has been
provided to hear from the saints
abroad over the land, by Brother A. J.
Tomlinson being the publisher of the
dear old Church of God Evangel
which has blessed our home wonder-
fully for some time. It brings great joy
to my soul. I sometimes read and
sometimes read and sleep.

Although many rejected and mock-
ed the way, yet I am praising God
that I stepped out from among them
and I am living in this beautiful high-
way now. Also I am thankful for this
little band of saints in our commu-
nity.

How sweet it is to meet together and
worship God in the beauty of holiness.

However, the devil throws

stumbling blocks in the way and
causes some to err from the true way.

We are taught to lay aside all dif-
ferences of opinions and preconceived
ideas of our own and come together
in unity, love and sweet fellowship
with one another. We are taught in
the Word, when the Savior prayed to
His Father, that we might be one as He
and His Father were one. Also that we
might be one in them. It is wonderful
to possess a love that draws

God's children together with one ac-
cord in one mind that makes us hate
sin and yet love the sinner. A love
that is pure and undefiled in the
sight of God, and peace that passeth
understanding.

My one desire, my only cry, is to be
more like Christ. That one thought
may not from him slip by, until we
reach that home in the skies: I want
to pattern my life like Him of Galilee
and let my light shine upon this world
of sin.

We are taught to go into all nations
teaching them; He did not say

to get all nations saved for He knew
that some would refuse, but that all
may have a chance to hear and believe
the truth.

No wonder God hath raised up a
few people in these last days to de-
clare the marvelous but long neglect-
ed truth, to this world. He hath put
it into the hearts of holy men and
women, to forsake all and go through
this world preaching the glad tidings.

We can do it. For Jesus' sake, FOR
JESUS' SAKE.

One of His little ones,

Phenie C. Babcock,

Cleveland, Tenn.

We who claim to be saints of God
should not be the least negligent of
our duty in doing all we can for Him
who hath done so much for us.

Life only comes to us a day at a time,
even tomorrow is not ours until
it becomes today. What a grand secret
it is to live our life by the day. Any one
can bear his burden though it
be heavy. Any one can do his work
though it be hard for one day, anyone
can do today's duty, can fight to
day's temptations, can live patiently,
purely and lovingly until the sun goes
down. Then remember that life is
but one short day compared with eternity.

Have we noticed the great refining
power of suffering and how human
nature shrinks from suffering? When the
Lord's Word we find that whom He
lovethe He chasteneth and scourgeth
every one whom He receiveth. Now
chastening for the present seemeth
not joyous but grievous, nevertheless
afterward it yieldeth the peaceable
fruit of righteousness. So we see from
this that every trial is but a new
proof of God's love to us. Then if we
wonder why and rebel we will lose
the blessing that He longs to impart.
The Psalmist says, "Blessed is the man
whom thou chastenest oh Lord, and
teacheth him out of thy law."

If it were necessary for God's holy
Son to pass through suffering to reach
perfection: Can we be made perfect
without it? If He learned obedience
through suffering, should we not pass
through suffering we are made perfect.
So if we suffer, we have an equal
inheritance with Jesus, and a full fel-
lowship of His glory. No wonder Paul
prayed for a fellowship of his sufferings.
He says that the suffering is but
for a moment but the inheritance and
glory is for ever. Has the Bible a more
beautiful picture than this?

Your unworthy sister,

Sallie Lowery,
Lamison, Ala.

Harvest is White And Labor- ers Are Few

Dear Brother Tomlinson, and All the
Saints—Greetings in Jesus'
Name:

I want to sound a note of praise for
my blessed Savior. He has done so
much for me.

I am a member of the dear old
Church of God, which the gates of
hell shall not prevail against, praise
God for ever. I am saved and am seek-
ing the full blessing. I am glad I can
trust Him for both soul and body. He
has healed me of chills and I praise
Him for it. Although I am having the
chills again, I am trusting my Lord
for healing and I ask the dear saints
to pray for me that I will be healed
and as I grow older that I may grow
stronger in the Lord, to be some day
out in the battlefield for Him, telling
the lost souls about His love.

Troubles on Earth But Gain in Heaven.

I praise God this morning for victory over sin and that His grace is still sufficient.

No doubt, many will be surprised to hear of the death of our little girl, Minnie Lois Cook. I had written many she was healed; the dear Lord did wonderfully heal her and she had gained her strength and flesh and was a picture of health but for some cause, God took her to be with Him. She was taken with a cough on Nov. 11th, and grew worse until the 16th, on Wednesday morning at one o'clock when death claimed her spirit. She was never confined to her bed, she ate, walked and seemed cheerful at times. She asked me to sing the morning before her death, her songs were: By His Stripes We Are Healed, and He Was Nailed to the Cross. I began to sing, By His Stripes We Are Healed, and she said, "Mamma, don't sing that, sing, He was Nailed to the Cross, and Whiter than Snow."

About two hours before she left us she cried, "Oh! Lord, Lord!" Her father had her in his arms. She put one arm around his neck and as her right arm was helpless, she said, "Papa, put both arms around your neck," and she embraced him. He was carrying her and I was by his side praying and at times would carry her in turn. She gave a cry and looked at all of us and said, "Papa, lay me down," and she put one hand on my face and the other on her papa's face and passed away so sweetly. She seemed to pull us to her, it was wonderful. Her right arm was helpless and had been for months but in death she waved it and then crossed her little hands.

She was first to put in her five pennies for the orphans. She loved to go to Sunday school and was proud of her cards and wanted to learn her lessons. Of course we miss our little darling.

She had been sick two years in July. Our attention was turned toward her so much day and night.

During her sickness she was so patient and sweet spirited and would ask us to sing and pray with her for hours. Her father said if the Lord had taken her when she was sick for so long it wouldn't have been so hard, but I told him that we fasted, prayed and begged God so hard to heal her, that even if He had taken her later, she had been healed. Hundreds of people would come in and look at her and remark that she would die and couldn't live. But she was healed and passed through their town as a living witness to His healing power.

Oh, it has been a testing time. We have suffered much. In Romans we find, "If so be that we suffer with him, that we may also be glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Rom. 8: 17, 18, 38, 39. Truly we love Him better. Heaven seems more real. Our little darling has been prayed for in two Assemblies and many handkerchiefs sent and all that loving hands could do but we will have to submit to His will, knowing He doeth all things well.

Pray God to give us grace to stand whatever the outcome may be and pray for our enemies. We can say with David, She can't come back but we can go to her.

I've jewels in heaven,

That beckon my soul,
Two sweet little angels,
So precious were they,
But God in His wisdom
Has called them away.

O sweet little darlings,
I fancy tonight,
I've visions of heaven

And your faces bright;
It makes me adore Him
And honor His name,
On earth are my troubles
But heaven's my gain.

It's sad to be lonely,
Without their sweet voice,
God liveth and taketh,

He made them His choice.
Tonight they are singing
His praises above,
All glory and honor

To His wonderful love.
Dear Father, Thou left me
Five dear little ones
To brighten my pathway,
And give me great joy;

I pray Thee, tonight,
Dear Father above,
To fill us with grace

And Thy wonderful love.
O may we be faithful
And honor Thy name,
Sing praises to Jesus,

The Lamb that was slain.
In troubles and trials,
We have here below,
God comfort and cheer us
In sorrow and woe.

I'm waiting the call
Of my Master,
Yes, ready and willing, I'll be,
When He calls me above
To my heavenly home,

My jewels in heaven to see.

Her mother,
Mrs. G. T. Cook,
Catchings, Miss.

REQUESTS

Mrs. Joe Bowker, White Bluffs, Tenn., requests prayer for her baby to be healed of a cough.

Mrs. Jane Hicks, Maryville, Tenn., requests prayer for her son and husband.

A. L. Ellis, Sapulpa, Okla., requests prayer that his wife may be healed of chills.

Annie Kelley, Harlan, Ky., requests the saints to pray that the Lord will restore her voice.

Sarah Chance, Bee Branch, Ark., requests prayer that she may get the Holy Ghost soon.

Ada Rhodes, Seneca, South Carolina, requests the saints to pray that means may be supplied to build a house of worship there.

Rebecca Hindle, Hansford, W. Va., asks all the saints to pray for the Lord to reclaim her and give her full salvation.

Annie Covey, Altoona, Ala., requests prayer that her little boy may be healed and that she may receive the Holy Ghost.

P. Grant, Maryville, Tenn., requests the saints to pray that he may get started out on the battle field to preach the Word.

Mrs. Jim Raney, Charleston, Miss., asks the saints to pray earnestly that she and her little girl may be healed of rheumatism.

Ruby Kendrick, Pelahatchee, Miss., requests prayer that her father may be saved, sanctified, filled with the Holy Ghost and healed.

Rosa M. Chancellor, Cloverport, Ky., requests prayer for Mrs. Hiram Blair, that she may be healed, as she is very sick.

Addie Loyd, Bee Branch, Ark., asks the saints to pray for her husband that he may be sanctified and baptized with the Holy Ghost.

Elle O'Brien, Beltona, Ala., asks the saints to pray for her husband to be saved and that they may raise their three children for the Lord.

F. Hollandsworth, Dunn, La., requests prayer that he may be healed. He was thrown from an automobile and his collar bone was dislocated.

Maude Jones, Holly Ridge, La., requests prayer that her child and father may be healed and pray specially for her father to be saved, sanctified and baptized with the Holy Ghost.

Rosa Chance, Bee Branch, Ark., asks the saints to pray for her husband that he may get the Holy Ghost. Also pray that the Lord will help her in the Christian life.

Mrs. Carry Dykes, Plant City, Fla., requests special prayer for her on Christmas day that her health may be renewed and strength restored. Also that her son may be healed of a rupture on his side.

NOTICES

Any one wanting revival meetings held, please write me at my home address.

F. M. Montgomery,
Bonne Terre, Mo.

Brother H. E. Isaac and myself would like to hold revivals any place in the North. The Lord is blessing our work. If anyone would like for us to come write me.

Joe Kny,
Bonne Terre, Mo.

If anyone desires to write me or hear from me, please write me at Haynes, Ark. Will be engaged in evangelistic work this year.

Your brother and servant for Him,
Jesse Danehower,
Haynes, Ark.

I must call at every home, and want every one to hold me up to a throne of grace for the upbuilding of the great Church of God in this place.

Your little sister,
Mary Howell,
712 Francis St.,
Key West, Fla.

Any body wanting to work for Jesus and lost souls, come to the West end district of Kentucky. We'd like to have some good church of God preachers that will preach the Word and not give up. So if you want a job that never will run out and are willing to suffer a little for the sake of Jesus, come this way. There are some good churches in this district with their members as true as gold, who will stand by you.

We have seven churches with nobody to look after them but one other preacher and myself, so if any one wants to pastor a church or evangelize write me at once. I went to the Assembly and got a blaze in my soul and want to get a move on the world and go over the top for Jesus, all working together.

S. P. Ford, district overseer,
Moorman, Ky.

I now take this occasion of writing to all the churches in Brookhaven district. The names are as follows:

Star, Magee, Morgantown, Mt. Sinia, Mt. Carmel, Pickwick, Tilton, Summit, and Jayess. I would like to get in touch with the deacons or appointed leaders at every one of these places just as soon as possible. I am at Star now, and will visit every church just as soon as I can. You can write me at Morgantown, Miss.

I would also like to hear from every minister that is expecting to work in this district. We sure do want to get every church supplied with a pastor, so any Church of God evangelist that wishes to work in new fields is invited to come over and help us. But please do not go in on a pastoral charge with out the consent of the pastor.

Dear brothers and sisters of this district, I want to ask all of you to join in with me in prayer for the work in this district this year. Let us pray that every church will be properly fed so it will grow and reach out its arms in every direction for precious souls.

Yours in the battle,
E. C. Rider, district overseer,
Morgantown, Miss.

To All the Ministers and Churches in North Carolina—Greetings in the Holy Name of Jesus:

As I am placed as your overseer, I want to ask you all to help me to make this one of the most prosperous years the Church of God has ever known in North Carolina. Let us rally our forces and push harder in every way than ever before.

The great Church of God is rising and shining and we want her to shine brightly in North Carolina. Let us all be prompt in making our reports, both churches and ministers. Let us have our reports sent in on the last day of each month, even if something else goes undone. Let us be true blue and loyal workers together with Him, who is the head. And let us be the ones that it can truthfully be said of, "They have done what they could."

Now, as I can not get around to all the work at once and as I do not have all the ministers placed, and the work arranged as we want it, I want all the ministers to write me at once and let me know your circumstances, how you are situated and if you expect to give all your time to the ministry, and whether you desire to pastor or evangelize.

Please let me hear at once.
Lovingly, your unworthy servant,
Geo. T. Brouray,
Kannapolis, N. C.

IN MEMORY OF

CRISP

The son of J. M. and Amanda Crisp, born Nov. 8, 1903, departed this life Oct. 30, 1921.

He was a noble young man, very much devoted to his parents. While he had not made any profession of faith in Christ, he was a noble character. In his last days he left the assurance that he was ready to go to meet his Lord in peace.

All through his sickness, he never murmured or complained, but seemed to be perfectly resigned to whatever the Lord might do, and during his sickness he was heard praying several times by his nurse. His mother is a member of the great Church of God at Buffalo, S. C.

He leave to mourn, a father and mother, two sisters one brother and sister-in-law, and a host of other relatives and friends.

S. D. Cooper,
Greenville, S. C.

MCWILLIAMS

On the night of Nov. 27, 1921, the death angel visited our community and claimed Brother Luther McWilliams and took him home to be with the redeemed ones.

He was saved, sanctified and baptized with the Holy Ghost and a member of the great Church of God at Broseley, Mo. He was faithful until the end. When his friends talked to him about taking medicine, he told them he was in the hands of the Lord.

The Church has lost one of its best members and the wife has lost a devoted husband. The funeral was conducted by the writer and his remains were laid to rest in the Moahill day.

One who loved him,
L. W. Lane,
Brosley, Mo.

Sister Jennie B. Rushin of Tsingan-fu, China, reports a very precious meeting held there in September. There were fourteen baptized, saved from heathenism and a church was set in order with sixteen members.

Have just closed a seventeen days meeting at Middletown, Ohio. Brother Albee did the preaching, he preached so clean and straight that many people are looking this way and they see that the Church of God is right.

Many seekers were at the altar and God poured out His blessings upon them; some were made to rejoice in the Saviour's love, reports J. Wilson, pastor, Middletown, Ohio.

We have just closed a meeting at Truman, Ark., and three were reclaimed and sanctified, and two got the Holy Ghost according to Acts 2:4. The dear Lord sure did bless and the saints are on fire for God.

If any one wants to do something for the Lord—feed His sheep and stand hardships for lost souls, come over and help us. I have more than I can do, reports Samuel S. Monroe, district overseer, Lexa, Ark.

REPORTS

On Wednesday, Nov. 23rd, we met at the church house and the Lord wonderfully blessed. One was sanctified and many signs of fire were seen.

On Saturday we had a saints' meeting, sinners, too, but they must kneel down and pray. Glory to God, the fire is burning right now. We had no leader, but we let the Lord lead for we all know that He is the leader of all things. On Sunday evening, the mighty power of God came down and four were filled with the blessed Holy Ghost and talked in tongues.

It was one of the most blessed meetings. While a sister was talking in tongues, the message was given as follows: "Come, precious children, come. I am pleading with you, I am pleading with you. Humble yourselves, humble yourselves, oh, humble yourselves. Don't let your souls go to hell. Come, precious children, come." J. C. Cresty, Akron, Ohio.

We began a meeting here on the night of Nov. 26th, with Brother C. H. Randall, state overseer, in charge. We were to have had the dedication of our new church house the 27th, but owing to a few hindrances it was postponed until next Sunday. The day was not a failure for the Lord anyway. There were many visiting saints from different churches and two other preachers with them.

It made one think of being in the great Sixteenth Annual Assembly to see and hear God's children testify, shout, dance and talk in tongues to the glory of God; and when Brother W. G. Gamball, district overseer, had talked for a few minutes, the Holy Ghost spoke a message through another brother and was interpreted as follows: "This is the good way, walk ye in it. Follow me and the leadings of my word as I followed the leadings of my Father. Many false prophets and deceivers will arise. Beware! Beware!! and go not after them, I am the good Shepherd. My true sheep must follow me. These are the last days, for I have shown you so by my signs and wonders that should come. I am coming soon to gather my Church that is without a spot or wrinkle. Look up, and be ye ready." Hallelujah!! Hallelujah!!

Praise our God for the way He manifests Himself to His people in these last days.

Pray for us in Kentucky for we are looking forward to the greatest year in the history of the Church.

Very truly,
J. A. Muncey, pastor,
Ravenna, Ky.

HEALING

Earl A. Cripps

"Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sickness." Matt. 8:17.

Healing is part of the atonement. If we advertise this, telling the lame, the halt and the blind come believing that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. God will do the work. If they do not touch the hem of His garment the first time keep on anointing them (if it is fifty times) until they do. We do not tell sinners not to come back to the alter if they are not saved the first time. It ought to be the same in healing. If Jesus took our infirmities and bare our sickness on the cross we have no more right to think that He does not want to heal us than a sinner has to think that He does not want to save him. Until a sinner realizes that it is the whosoever can be saved, the devil may say your sins are too big, you are hard hearted, you have sinned against light and mercy, but God says, "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." Your infirmities and sicknesses are not too big for God. Many good Christians are sick for years because they do not realize their privileges in the atonement.

If we preach healing one of the greatest arguments the devil will put up is that healing is only a fad, salvation is more important. He knows that if the signs follow that multitudes will be saved. In Peter's time two whole cities turned to the Lord because a lame man was healed. We may reach a few thousand Gentiles that have been raised in Sunday school by preaching a gospel milk, but millions of Jews and heathens will not be touched. If it took signs and wonders in the days of the early church to convince the world that Jesus is the Son of God it will take them today. There is no other name given among men whereby they can be saved, and this is God's way of creating faith in order to keep them out of hell. Those in health and puffed up by the fleshly mind might think that healing is a fad, but God cares for those on beds of pain if they don't. Jesus is anxious to touch thousands of sick people who are suffering in the hospitals, not to mention the multitudes of lame, halt and blind and those in asylums.

Here are a few instances of what He has done. "And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them; and many took up palsies, and that were lame, were healed. And there was great joy in that city." Acts 8:6-8.

"And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women; insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least, the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them. There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them, which were vexed with unclean spirits; and they were healed every one." Acts 5:14-16.

Jesus said, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe: In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover." Mark 16:15-18.

Oh, let us remember the gospel that began at Jerusalem and is to be preached unto the ends of the earth, has not changed. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. He sits at the right hand of the throne of God where He is praised by the same angels that sang over Bethlehem and by all the saints and prophets. He looks down and with Him nothing shall be impossible.

RESURRECTION AND RAPTURE

(Apocalypse)

F. J. Lee

Ques. What is the meaning of the word resurrection?

Ans. It means to rise again, as from the dead, resumption of vigor. Webster.

Ques. What class of people disbelieve in the resurrection, angel or spirit?

Ans. The Sadducees would not receive this doctrine.

Ques. Is the doctrine of the resurrection extensively taught in the Old Testament?

Ans. No, only a few references, such as Isa. 26:19; Dan. 12:2.

Ques. Then where do we get the knowledge of this truth?

Ans. In the New Testament.

Ques. How many resurrections will there be?

Ans. Two—the righteous and the wicked. This is referred to as the first and second resurrection. Rev. 20:5, 6.

Ques. Who comes forth in the first resurrection?

Ans. The righteous. Rev. 20:6.

Ques. How long till the wicked come forth?

Ans. One thousand years. Rev. 20:5.

Ques. What degree of righteousness does it require for one to come forth in the first resurrection?

Ans. We will have to be holy. Read Rev. 20:6.

Ques. When did the first resurrection begin?

Ans. It began with the resurrection of Jesus.

Ques. What Scriptures do we have to prove this?

Ans. Christ, the first fruits. 1 Cor. 15:23.

Ques. What other thought did Paul introduce in this verse?

Ans. He introduced the thought that there would be different orders of saints.

Ques. What are some of the orders?

Ans. The Old Testament saints. Job. 19:25-27; Isa. 26:19. The New Testament saints, known as the great harvest of the first resurrection; then the tribulation saints known as the gleanings.

Ques. What made the Jews so mad at Peter and John?

Ans. They were grieved because they preached a resurrection FROM the dead. Acts 4:2.

Ques. What was Paul trying to attain unto?

Ans. He was trying to attain unto the resurrection OF the dead. Phil. 3:11. The Syriac says, FROM the dead.

Ques. What does the resurrection FROM the dead mean?

Ans. Coming out from among the other dead.

Ques. What do we mean by "other dead?"

Ans. We mean by this, those who were not worthy to come forth in the first resurrection.

Rapture

Ques. What is the meaning of the word rapture?

Ans. It means to carry off by force; transport etc. (Webster). As to be carried by the power of God up in the air.

Ques. What are the living saints waiting for?

Ans. They are waiting for the dead saints to come forth, resurrected to life.

Ques. Why not the living saints go on before the dead come forth?

Ans. Paul said we shall not precede them. See Syriac version.

Ques. Then after the dead saints come forth, what will happen to the living saints?

Ans. They shall be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye.

Ques. Then what will take place?

Ans. They, together with the resurrected saints, will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air. 1 Thes. 4:17.

Ques. How long will they be in the air?

Ans. They will be there during the length of the tribulation.

Ques. What will happen to the saints while in the air?

Ans. They will receive their reward. Matt. 5:12; Rev. 22:12.

Ques. What will the saints be doing after the rapture?

Ans. They will help cry out the woes on the inhabitants of the earth. Rev. 8:13. (Angel here is eagle in the Syriac.)

Ques. What else will they do? Ans. Help judge nations and angels. Matt. 25:31; 1 Cor. 6:3.

Ques. Where will the saints reign?

Ans. On earth. Rev. 5:10.

Ques. To what place will they descend?

Ans. To the mount of Olives. Zech. 14:4.

(To be continued)

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